

Annual Scientific Council Report

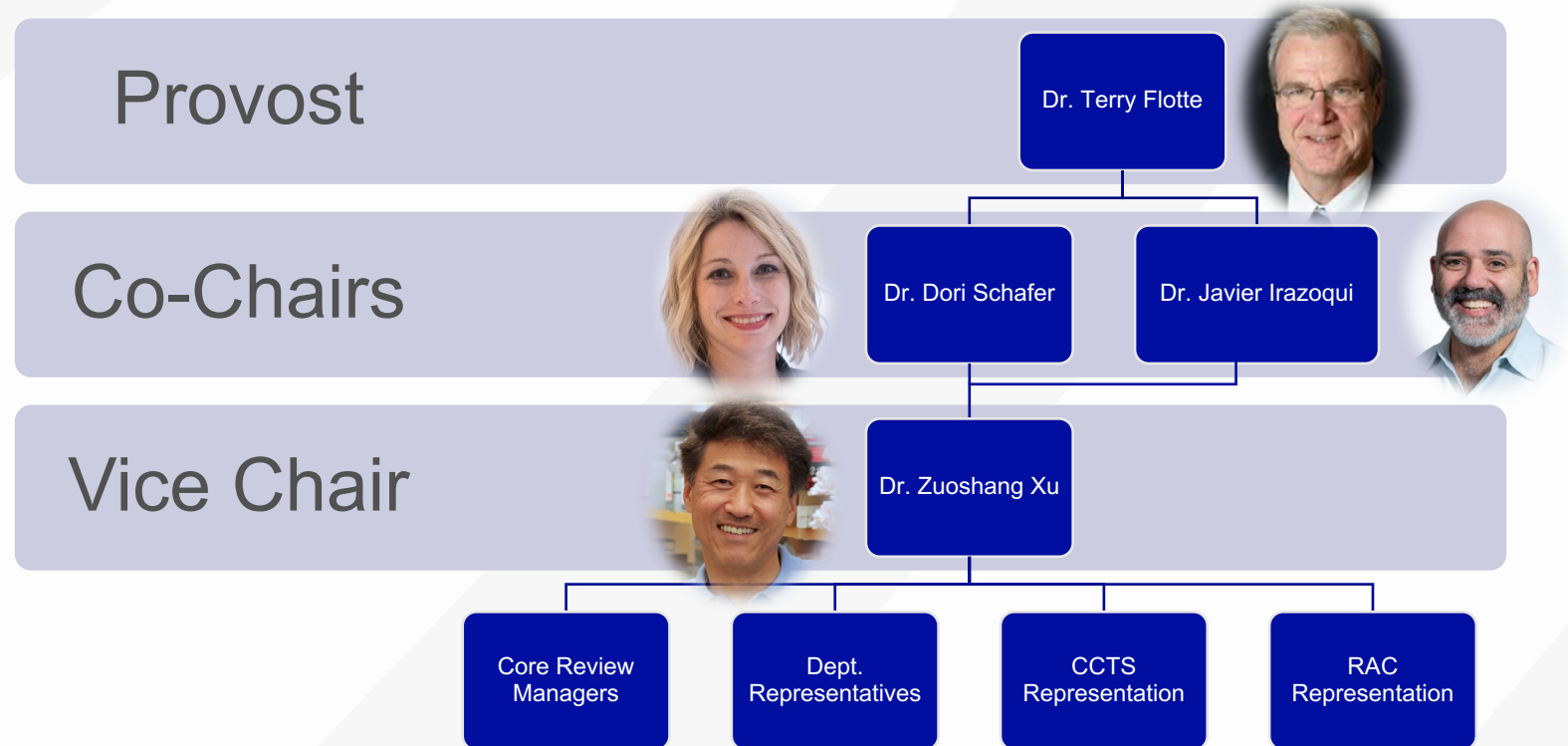
Faculty Council



February 1, 2024

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL:

Who Are We?



... with **OUTSTANDING** support by Dawn Fontaine

Scientific Council: What Is Our Role?

Duties

- Advise the **Executive Council, Faculty Council, and Student Government Alliance** on “*scientific environment*”
- Report to **Executive Council, Faculty Council**
- **Chancellor, Provost, Deans, and EVC for Research can consult** with SC on “*research-related matters*” and “*significant issues*”
- Advise and receive reports from Committees:
 - **Laboratory Safety**
 - **Radiation Safety**
 - **Protection of Human Subjects in Research**
 - **IACUC**

Advising and reporting

- **Provide faculty input** for considering and evaluating “*activities related to research*”
- **Review annual budget** for Office of Research
- **Make recommendations** to the Chancellor, Provost, Deans, and EVC for Research about funding priorities
- **Serve** as *ad hoc* review panel for intramural grants – report to Chancellor, Provost, Deans, and EVC for Research
- **Review** the performance of Research Cores
- **Recommend** level of support for Research Cores

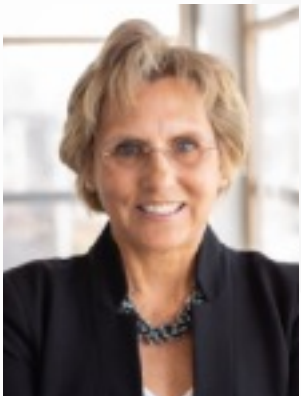
*Doc. T03-035
Passed by the BoT 8/6/2003
Amended 8/23/2006
Amended 9/18/2013*

GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS WORCESTER

Current Projects

Meet improvement needs

- Partner Office of Research and Core Directors to **address challenges** based on customer surveys



Susanna Perkins
Director of Research Cores
and Administration

Address needs and upgrades

- Partner with UMass Chan leadership (Admin and Finance) to address core facility **needs and improvements**



Cynthia Nicholson FSA
Executive Director,
Administration & Finance

Core Review - 2023

Bioinformatics

- Products are innovative, high-quality, in demand, and with high customer satisfaction
- Business model conflicts with desire for more consultation and collaboration
- Services are limited by staffing difficulties: shortage of experts and heavy competition from industry

Small Molecule Screening

- Funded by several external grants and subsidized by CCTS
- Well-run; high customer satisfaction
- Growth in services is constrained by limited budget, fragmented spaces, and noncompetitive salary for staff

Morphology

- Services are in high demand
- Meets the demand without need of subsidies
- Need for improvement in customer satisfaction is being addressed
- Urgent need for storage space

Core Review - 2024

Electron Microscopy

- March 2024

Tissue Bank

- June 2024

Core Facilities: Strengths and Challenges

Core facility strengths

- Remarkable growth in external user base and in services
- State-of-the art equipment to service our research enterprise
- Highly skilled and knowledgeable Core Directors
- Bringing in external companies and collaborators – Voucher Program
- Having the resources on campus has turned into new grants and collaborations

Core facility challenges

Two Areas for Attention:
1. Sustainability of Core Director efforts
2. Staffing

- Core directors spend too much time on administrative paperwork/bookkeeping – diminishes support for users, business development
- Some cores require equipment updates to stay current and relevant – not possible within core budget
- Recruitment and retention of skilled core directors and staff due to salary constraints, lack of clear career paths for advancement
- Business model may not be sustainable for all cores – especially highly evolving tech, new tech
- Need for consumable storage space is acute

Key questions

- What are some creative ways to relieve budgetary constraints on core competitiveness and being state-of-the-art?
- How do we help core directors to rebalance science v administrative tasks?
- How do we staff our facilities better?
- How can we improve our assessment of which areas to strategically invest in, balancing potential budgetary deficits?
- How can we facilitate access to core services for PIs in early stages of research?

Research Cores: Philosophy

Research Cores are a strategic investment by the Institution.

The purpose of this investment is to drive scientific innovation and discovery, and in the process increase UMass Chan's impact, reputation, and competitiveness.

As a Core matures, it may move from a deficit operation to sustainability, but such progress requires flexibility and financial support.

The Institution would benefit from knowing the return on investment in terms of grants and contracts that stem from its strategic investment in Cores.

We ask of You

Know your Scientific Council Rep

- They are the conduits of information from the Departments to the Scientific Council, and vice versa

Partner with us

- Help us strengthen what makes UMass Chan great, and make it even greater

Thank you for your attention

